



## State of Maine Board of Corrections

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July 29, 2009

### MEMBERS:

Tom Brown  
Neale Duffett\*  
Irving Faunce  
Martha Freeman  
George Jabar  
Tim King  
Martin Magnusson  
Scott Story  
\* Chair of the Board

### STAFF:

Kelene Barrows  
April Fortier

### CORRECTIONS WORKING GROUP:

Karla Black  
Sheriff Todd Brackett\*  
Bob Devlin  
Sheriff Mark Dion  
Scott Ferguson  
Denise V. Lord\*  
Ralph Nichols  
Michael LeVert  
Phil Roy  
Malory Shaughnessy  
\*Co-Chairs

### STAFF:

Kelene Barrows

### FOCUS GROUPS:

Budget  
Forensic  
Inventory of Needs  
Information Technology  
Medical/Pharmacy  
Mental Health/Substance  
Abuse  
Pretrial/Diversion/Alternative  
Transportation  
Victim Services

Senator Stan Gerzofsky  
Representative Anne Haskell  
Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee  
Augusta, ME 04333-0111

RE: Board of Corrections - An Update and Status Report

Dear Senator Gerzofsky, Representative Haskell, and Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide your committee with an update of our progress to establish a unified corrections system for Maine which we now call One Maine One System. I would like to provide a status report of our efforts to design and implement a system that reduces the growth in the cost of corrections. I would also like to outline briefly more recent accomplishments since the Board last met with your Committee.

The most significant responsibility for the Board of Corrections over this past year has been to review, revise and approve county jail budgets. The Board's enabling legislation clearly sets out this responsibility. This has been a daunting task complicated by recent economic conditions and the loss of tax revenue.

To guide us in our county jail budget review process, the Board harkened back to our mission, goals and guiding principles. Specifically, the Board is applying for a stewardship approach that manages and maintains the existing assets and resources for the maximum benefit and invests strategically to accomplish system goals. The budgets that we will review and approve on August 5<sup>th</sup> are consistent with these principles.

In addition, the Board will be reviewing and approving FY10 Budget Guidelines developed and proposed by the Corrections Working Group (comprised equally of state and county members). These Guidelines are to assist the Board in establishing growth rates for each county and in the review and approval of county jail budgets. These Guidelines are attached.

Your Committee will also discuss the emergency rule adopted by the Board in June. This rule was necessary at that time in order to implement the vision of the Board and to accomplish the recommended mission changes in three counties. Among the accomplishments of the Board since our last meeting with your Committee has been the downsizing of two jails to 72 hour holding facilities and the change of mission of the Waldo County Jail to a regional reentry center.

Senator Stan Gerzofsky  
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Members, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee  
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Finally, the Board, in implementing the major mission changes identified above, will identify about \$1.7 million that will be invested in overall systems' needs.

The Board, through the Corrections Working Group, has established 9 focus groups to address specific needs or issues in One Maine One System. Some of the accomplishments resulted from these efforts include:

- A transportation hub which currently serves the northern part of the state;
- Joint purchasing of pharmacy and medical services;
- A anticipated grant award to establish a pre-trial coordinator and expand and improve pre-trial services;
- Draft policies to improve victim notification;
- The passage of legislation that enhances home release programs;
- The creation of a bed utilization and reservation system; and
- The elimination of boarding fees in FY11

After the FY10 budget approval process is completed on August 5, 2009, the Board will turn its attention to the following:

- a review of the department's adult services budget,
- the process for reviewing and approving FY11 county jail budgets,
- the development of the Certificate of Need rule;
- improved pre-trial services and a resulting reduction in bed days,
- a focus on specialty services most importantly mental health,
- an assessment of the system's bed capacity and future needs, and
- funding of future capital improvement needs.

I appreciate your continued support of the Board of Corrections in this challenging process. If you have any questions regarding the Board's actions and direction, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Neale Duffett  
Chairman of the Board of Corrections

NAD/keb

Enclosure